

News from the Applied Math
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Spring 2024

As the Spring 2024 semester comes to a close, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee would like to share what we have been working on throughout the semester and highlight other DEI-related happenings in the APMA community. **This newsletter serves as a public record of the DEI Committee's recent activities and a measure of our accountability to the community.**

The DEI Committee has had a busy year - we've met regularly since September (our meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#)) and our subcommittees have met throughout the year to focus on specific topics, events, and initiatives that support the APMA community. We extend our sincere gratitude to this year's full committee and subcommittee members, whose efforts have greatly enriched the work of the DEI Committee and the Division as a whole. We look forward to continuing to advance departmental diversity, equity, and inclusion in the next academic year!

We will have openings on the DEI committee for next year - if you are interested in discussing and working on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the department, please contact [Rachel Daigle](#) or [Rosanna Wertheimer](#)!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful and restorative summer!

Our Spring 2024 Accomplishments

Events & Programs

- **Teaching Assistant Listening Sessions:**
 - On February 6, we hosted a community meeting for faculty and graduate teaching assistants to discuss ways to improve the experience of GTAs in the Division. Takeaways and next steps are being discussed by the DEI graduate subcommittee.
 - On April 16, we hosted a listening session for undergraduate teaching assistants and faculty to talk about UTA experiences, practices, and policies. Takeaways and next steps are being discussed by the DEI undergraduate subcommittee.
- **APMA Connect** - this semester, the DEI undergraduate subcommittee piloted a series of peer check-ins with senior concentrators to learn more about the experience our concentrators have (what has gone well, what challenges they've faced, and what the department can do to help). The program collected feedback from 29 seniors, and the results are being compiled and analyzed for overall trends.

- **Lightning Talks** - on February 27, the Division hosted a series of 10-minute faculty talks for first- and second-year APMA grad students to introduce students more broadly to the kinds of research being conducted in APMA and around the university. The event was very successful, with 8 faculty speakers and 13 graduate students attending.
- **Open Office Hours** - members of the DEI undergraduate subcommittee continued to pilot a series of regular biweekly office hours open to undergraduates with questions about APMA courses and concentrations.
- **Prelim Prep Discussion** - on April 2, the graduate subcommittee hosted a gathering for graduate students and faculty to talk about the prelim exams: what first and second-year students should expect, common questions and misconceptions, the experiences of those who have taken the prelims already, and tips from faculty who have given the exams before.
- **Graduate Student Check-in Meetings** - Candy and Rosanna continued to hold check-in meetings with a focus on non-academic topics for APMA graduate students - over the course of each year, they meet with every graduate student in the program at least once to hear more about how students are doing, answer questions, and provide resources. Individual meetings are private, but overall trends are reported to the APMA leadership and the DEI committee to help inform our work.

Communications & Updates

- **New DDIAP** - we finalized the new Departmental Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DDIAP), a document that identifies departmental DEI priorities for the medium-term future. Feedback from the community was incorporated and the new DDIAP was shared with the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. The document can be viewed [here](#).
- **DEI Dashboard** - one of the focus areas identified in the new DDIAP is the creation of a dashboard that tracks the activities and progress made in each focus area by the Division. This dashboard can be accessed [here](#) and through the [Community page](#) on the APMA website, and is visible to the APMA community.
- **Weekly Undergraduate Digest** - we piloted a weekly undergraduate digest that compiled upcoming departmental and university events, announcements, and opportunities that were of interest to APMA concentrators and students taking APMA courses.

Looking Ahead

- **Summer and Fall 2024**- the DEI Committee will use the summer to plan for future activities.

APMA Spring 2024 Community Events - Beyond the Committee

Beyond the work of the DEI committee, there have been other community-building and DEI-related events taking place in the department this semester:

- **Annual Celebration of Mathematics** - Professor Kavita Ramanan organized the Annual Celebration of Mathematics with special guest Professor Ingrid Daubechies (Duke University). Professor Daubechies gave an APMA colloquium talk and a public lecture at ICERM on the applications of mathematical algorithms in art conservation. The Division also hosted a screening of the NAS 2024 USNC/TAM Distinguished Lecture.
- **SEAM Seminar** - On April 10, the Division hosted Jamol J. Pender of Cornell University for a virtual Social Equity and Applied Mathematics (SEAM) seminar about stochastic models for community bail funds. Information on the SEAM seminar can be found [here](#).
- **Postdoc Events** - Professor Kavita Ramanan organized two postdoc events - a social on February 29 and a multi-department joint social on April 11 - to build postdoc community and create opportunities for postdoc networking and connectivity.
- **Tea Time** - The Division has had a great turnout of students, postdocs, faculty, and staff at our weekly community Tea Times throughout the semester.
- **Student Group Events** - APMA student groups held student community events throughout the semester, including regular graduate seminars, coffee chats with undergrads and faculty, and a talent show.

We encourage you to get involved, submit comments, stay up-to-date with the DEI Committee's work through the following ways:

- Read our meeting [minutes](#)
- Submit comments, suggestions, or concerns in our [comment box](#)
- Join the DEI committee or a subcommittee
- Attend events!

[LEARN MORE ON THE APMA WEBSITE](#)